

REMARKS

In the specification, the Abstract has been revised in accordance with MPEP § 608.01(b). Claims 20-30 and 32-48 are currently pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 22, 34, 43-45 and claim 47 are cancelled and claims 20, 27, 32, 46 and 48 have been amended. The amended claim set is provided herewith.

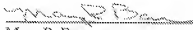
Claims 43-46 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dormandy, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,779,672, claims 20, 21, 23, 24, 26-30, 32, 33, 35, 36 and 38-42 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Dormandy Jr., in view of MatWeb material specification sheets for medical grade silicone and claims 25 and 37 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dormandy, Jr., U.S. Patent No. 5,779,672, and the MatWeb material, as applied to claims 20 and 32 above, and further in view of Johnson, et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,263,962. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. However, in order to facilitate issuance of a patent covering this subject matter, Applicant has amended independent claims 20, 27, 32, 46 to include the subject matter from claims 22, 34, 47 and 38 indicated by the Examiner to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

In view of the foregoing amendments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the claims as all rejections have been overcome. Early notice of allowability is kindly requested. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone at 763.505.0003 or by E-mail at mary.p.bauman@medtronic.com with any questions or comments.

Please grant any extension of time, if necessary for entry of this paper, and charge any fee due for such extension or any other fee required in connection with this paper to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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